

YMCA---Christmas Camp/New Year's Overnight/School's Out Program

By Molly Brown

YMCA Director of Child Care and Camps

Y SCHOOL'S OUT PROGRAM

The Grand Traverse Bay YMCA offers special programs for children when school is not in session. The YMCA believes in providing quality programming, quality care, and physical activities for children in a safe environment. The YMCA follows the Traverse City Area Public School schedule, so when there is a half day or full day off from school, the Grand Traverse Bay YMCA offers the School's Out Program. The program either begins at 6:45am for a full day, or at 12:00 noon for a half day; both programs go until 6:00 pm.

The Y School's Out Program is a fully licensed program that is offered for children 6-15 years of age, and registration forms are required. The children will be involved with games, crafts, projects, sports activities, and outside adventures. The YMCA teaches character building through in the "4-Core Values," which are honesty, caring, respect, and responsibility; all of which are modeled through teaching and leadership from qualified and experienced staff. YMCA staff model the values by example, and allow children to problem solve, communicate, and encourage acceptance and positive self-esteem. Children work on projects that build teamwork and play in games that encourage leadership. During Y School's Out Program, children also have time to relax and enjoy free time for basketball, kickball, puzzles, books, art projects, or board games. The YMCA accepts all children to participate and offers scholarship assistance so each child can enjoy the wonderful environment at the Y School's Out Program.

Y CHRISTMAS CAMP

The YMCA also features Christmas Camp, a fun environment for kids over the holiday break. Y Christmas Camp runs during December 22, 23, 24, 26, 29, 30, 31, and January 2. Qualified staff will lead children in team building games and activities, special Christmas projects, decorating cookies, volunteer projects, yummy snacks and treats, and even a surprise field trip. The program hours are 6:45 am to 6:00 pm. each day except Christmas Camp ends at 3:00 pm on the "Eves" for Christmas Eve and New Years Eve. All children interested must be registered by Friday, December 19th. Please contact Molly Brown the Child Care Program Director at molly@gtbayymca.org, or call the YMCA at (231)933-YMCA(9622). Christmas Camp 2008 is going to be exciting, and a fun way to spend the holidays at the YMCA!

NEW YEAR'S EVE

How many times a year do parents have the opportunity to have a night out, and how many times a year can children stay the night and party at the YMCA? Only once a year,

and it's at the NEW YEAR'S EVE SLEEPOVER PARTY!! This event is for children ages 8-15 years of age, who are eager to have lots of fun bringing in the new year. The New Year's Party will begin at 8:00 pm and end at 8:00 am the following morning. All children are required to bring a sleeping bag, pillow, and their favorite dancing pajamas, as they dance, bounce, jump, laugh, and eat the night away. The New Year's Party will be fully staffed with responsible and fun loving staff. There will be games, crafts, healthy yummy snacks, and a special movie and popcorn. Parents and families are also welcome to join the fun and sleep at the YMCA; we guarantee you will have fun! All children interested in joining the YMCA New Year's Eve Sleepover Party must be registered by Friday, December 26th. All registration forms and additional information is available at the Grand Traverse Bay YMCA, or please contact Molly Brown at (231)933-YMCA(9622).